

BOOK REVIEWS

CALIFORNIA MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

DISORDERS OF THE RESPIRATORY TRACT IN CHILDREN—Volume I—Pulmonary Disorders—Second Edition—Edited by Edwin L. Kendig, Jr., MD, Professor of Pediatrics, Medical College of Virginia, Health Sciences Division, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia (19105), 1972. 852 pages, \$32.50.

The first few chapters, on pulmonary physiology and on therapeutic and diagnostic procedures, contain a wealth of useful data.

On the other hand, some of the chapters are more general, less focused and thus less usable. I found Mildred Stahlman's discourse on Respiratory Diseases of the Newborn to be in this category. For instance, while reference is made to the use of continuous airway pressure as a method of therapy, the details of how to apply this technique and in what settings are lacking.

On the whole this text is a very valuable one for anyone who finds respiratory diseases to be a major portion of his practice. It would also be of great value as a reference text for the library of any hospital or ambulatory facility caring for children. It may be a bit more detailed, however, than the average physician, resident or student would find to be necessary for his own individual use.

The second edition of this text follows the first one by five years. It appears in two volumes. This first volume covers diseases of the lower respiratory tract. A second volume, *Pediatric Otolaryngology*, takes up problems of the upper respiratory tract. This volume brings the material included in the first edition up to date and includes several new chapters, the best of which is on intensive care of respiratory disorders. The book includes a wealth of information on diseases of the chest in children. Most of the chapters are up to date and include much specific practical information. The best chapters are those on Asthma written by Susan Deer, on Cystic Fibrosis by Harry Schwachman and on Tuberculosis written by the Editor, Edwin Kendig.

MOSES GROSSMAN, MD

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THE CHINESE ART OF HEALING—Stephan Palos. Bantam Books, 666 Fifth Avenue, New York City (10019), 1972. 256 pages, \$1.50 (Paperback).

In his book, *The Chinese Art of Healing*, Stephen Palos, a Hungarian Buddhist monk, attempts to cover the principles involved and the treatment employed in traditional Chinese medicine. His book, divided into two parts, includes a thorough review of the basic literature written on medicine dating from (1) 2000 B.C. in the Hsin Dynasty through (2) Chou Dynasty 1122-255 B.C.—the initial reference to the Yin-Yang principle and the five elements and the use of acupuncture and moxibustion in medicine; (3) Han Dynasty—era of origin of the yellow Emperor's classic of internal medicine and other medical classics up to the present day. He explains the suppression of the use of traditional medicine during the Republic of China, 1911-1949 and its revival and merger with Western medicine in the People's Republic of China, 1949 to date. The chapter on the principles of Yin and Yang and the five elements is brief probably due to the difficulty of interpretation of the Chinese texts.

The explanation of the interrelation of medicine and philosophy as the sociological background in the history

of medicine in China omits the basic Chinese concept of food, health, and disease emphasized in Chinese folk medicine. The author makes an effort to create a foundation for understanding the interpretation of the Chinese classics to the Western reader.

The main portion of his book deals with the various modalities of medical treatment including exercise, massage, use of herbs, respiratory therapy and, primarily acupuncture. There is a rather detailed account of the technique of acupuncture and moxibustion. The quotations of conditions, diseases, and disorders treated and percentage of success have undoubtedly given impetus towards looking at acupuncture as a panacea of all ills. Much of the work would do well to be repeated in controlled studies to prove the authenticity. This is not to say acupuncture is not in great use today in China. Indeed, the merger of the traditional doctor, the acupuncturists and the Western physician in the People's Republic of China is a great boon to progress of medicine. It is recognized that there are only one-seventh the number of modern trained physicians to the number of traditional doctors and the total is insufficient to care for the health needs. New hospitals and clinics have been set up as well as a system of training medical assistants.

This book does give the reader a good general introduction to the traditional art of healing and its chief methods of treatment. There are suggested areas of research and an attempt at scientific explanation of the unscientific concepts. In summary, this is one of the better books written on the broad topic of Chinese medicine but lacks depth and scientific professionalism.

JANE F. LEE, MD

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DAVIS-CHRISTOPHER TEXTBOOK OF SURGERY—Tenth Edition—Edited by David C. Sabiston, Jr., MD, James B. Duke Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia (19105), 1972. Single volume, 2,135 pages, \$27.50 (Two volume set, \$35.00).

Dr. Sabiston assembled a distinguished group of contributing authors, each a recognized authority in a specific field of surgery, and produced a 2,135-page surgical text which maintains the superb conciseness of the original and subsequent editions of Christopher's Textbook of Surgery. The format is based on fundamental biological principles related to surgery and the text is subtitled "The Biological Basis of Modern Surgical Practice." To quote Dr. Sabiston, "The fundamental roles of physiology, biochemistry, immunology, pharmacology, and pathology form the basis for discussion of the pathogenesis, diagnosis and management of each disorder." Following a brief history of surgery by Dr. Brieger, Francis Moore's chapter "Homeostasis: Body Changes in Trauma and Surgery," a synopsis of his text, "Metabolic Care of the Surgical Patient," is a very appropriate introduction. The text is concluded with a chapter, "The Surgeon," written by Loyal Davis. Between these introductory and concluding chapters the entire field of surgery is encompassed with appropriate annotated bibliographies making this an unexcelled text and reference for the student of surgery, medical student, intern, resident, practitioner or teacher.

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